The Highlander

Thursday Aug 14 2025 | Issue 702

INSIDE: RYAN RAMSAY STEPPING DOWN AS HUSKIES COACH PAGE 6 FREE

White-knuckled whitewater

Ryker Harris, green, and Alex Baldoni, red, battle the rapids at the ICF canoe slalom world ranking trials in Minden Aug 8. More on page 17. *Photo by Steve Sherwood.*

Burnt River fire remains out of control

By Mike Baker

Christina Handley was enjoying a quiet afternoon outdoors Aug. 9 when the unmistakable roar of a speeding fire truck cut the silence around her Burnt Lake property.

Located about three kilometres from a 27-hectare wildfire that's been active since around 5 p.m. Saturday, Handley said it was a tense 24-hours after finding out about the blaze.

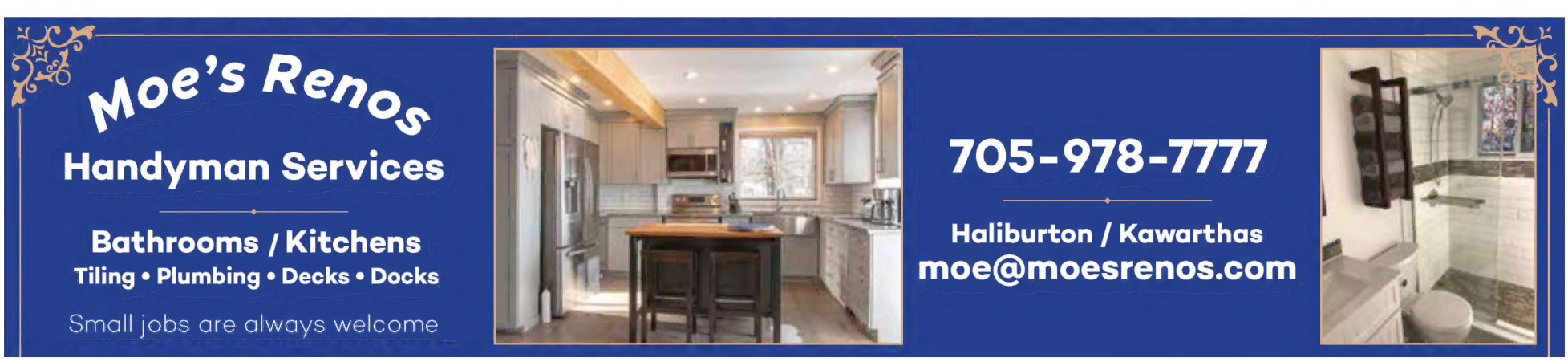
"It's scary, that's for sure. We're right in Burnt River, so the fire would have to change direction and hop the highway and the river to actually reach us, but that's not an impossibility with these dry conditions," she told *The Highlander* in an Aug. 12 interview.

After seeing a couple more firetrucks whiz by, Handley hopped in her vehicle to see what was going on. Shortly after pulling onto East Line, she saw a huge plume of smoke billowing in the distance.

According to the Ministry of Natural Resources' (MNR) Evan Lizotte, the fire was still burning out of control at noon Aug. 13. He noted the blaze is located 1.6 kilometres west of Hwy. 49 and 1.7 kilometres south of Hwy. 121. The City of Kawartha Lakes closed the closest portion of Hwy. 49 on Saturday. It was still closed as of press time.

Lizotte said the fire has been tied in, meaning suppression efforts intended to secure its perimeter have been successful.

Continued **'No'** on page 2



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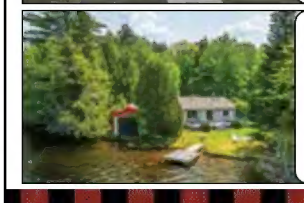

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SPECIALIZING IN WATERFRONT PROPERTIES

Waterbombers targetted a Burnt River fire this week. The fire remains out of control at 27 hectares. *Submitted.*

No weekend blazes in Haliburton County

Continued from page 1

Despite that, the fire - the equivalent of 66 football fields - is still listed as not under control with five MNR crews actively working on it.

"That area is seeing a high to extreme fire hazard, which means the chance for the fire to spread is the greatest it can be," Lizotte said. He noted the ministry had not called an evacuation of nearby residences and that the cause is still being determined.

Four other nearby fires were also being tracked over the weekend, though all had been brought under control as of 5 p.m. Aug. 12. A small blaze broke out south of Dale Lake in Algonquin Park Aug. 11 but was quickly put out.

Handley said she and her husband saw three waterbombers fill up on Four Mile Lake on Saturday and one each on Sunday and Monday. She didn't see any on Tuesday, which she's hoping is good news.

They have cattle on a pasture between their home and the fire – Handley has been making extra trips out to make sure they're okay.

"I've been going at least six times a day, but it doesn't seem to be bothering them. The fire is close, but it's across the lake. It seemed to be travelling away from them, but the minute the wind changes those cows will be coming out of there," she said.

Darlene Mann, who lives just off Hwy. 121, said that, living in the bush and seeing how prevalent forest fires have become over the past two years, she's been worried about something like this happening.

"The concern is it growing and spreading to populated areas… you don't want to go anywhere for the day."

County extends fire ban

Michael French, the County's fire coordinator, confirmed the fire ban implemented Aug. 5 has been extended to at least Aug. 19.

While all of the area fires MNR has responded to carry the name 'Haliburton', French said that's only because the ministry headquarters, which responds to calls, is located in Stanhope. None of the weekend blazes were within County borders, he said.

French said there was a small fire in Dysart on Monday, which the Dysart and Algonquin Highlands departments responded to, but that was quickly extinguished.

With little rain in the seven-day forecast, he reminded people to follow the rules, no open-flame fires whatsoever.

"This could happen to us just as easily, it really could. Because of the ice storm, there's so much debris down that it wouldn't take much for something to start," French said. "The potential is always there… we had some rain on Saturday night, but there was a lot of lightning strikes that came with that.

"Lightning strikes are our biggest fear right now because 50 per cent of fires come from lightning strikes. We do have issues where people are burning and it gets away from them, but the majority of these things [start] from natural causes," he added.

For up-to-date information on active fires in the region, visit ontario.ca/fireupdates.

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Highlander news

Highlands East staff and councillors have tough decisions to make about the future of firefighting in the township. *File.*

Hall closures recommended

By Lisa Gervais

Highlands East should consolidate fire stations, consultant, Loomex Group, told the township Aug. 12 when delivering its final fire master plan.

They recommend closing station 6 in Paudash – and relocating firefighters and equipment to Station 1 in Cardiff. They also urge the township to renovate the Cardiff fire hall in the short-term, and plan for a future replacement.

Terry Gervais of Loomex Group added the municipality should close station 2 in Highland Grove and Station 4 in Wilberforce and relocate to a new fire hall near Wilberforce. He further said they should upgrade station 3 in Gooderham.

Gervais said all stations were built in the 1970s, are more than 50 years old, and at the end of their life cycles.

"Most of the fire stations are currently in poor condition, and some are projected to fall into critical condition by 2029. The fire stations also lack the functionality that is required to meet the needs of the department and the community it serves," he said.

Gervais added they recognize the township can't afford to replace all stations, but cannot maintain the status quo. He said they looked at the fire department's current response zones to devise a new deployment model. The proposed model also included reviews of GIS mapping, vehicle deployment, fire station conditions, and financial considerations.

Loomex Group said the Cardiff station is in better shape than Paudash, and a move would house 15 firefighters. Gervais said Highlands East could sell the other property, as well as unneeded fire apparatus and equipment, to raise money for other fire needs.

As to closing stations in Highland Grove and Wilberforce, Gervais said a new central fire hall could be staffed by 19 firefighters.

"Highlands East should build a new fire station that could be established in a location that will allow the department to provide coverage for its current response zone, as well as the entire municipality," he said. Gervais added it could accommodate the department's current and anticipated needs, such as a dedicated administration, with office, training, and storage space.

Gervais said the municipality owns property at 2752 Loop Rd., which could accommodate a new fire station. Again, it was suggested they sell the Highland Grove and Wilberforce stations to raise some money.

They added the Gooderham station is in "relatively good condition" and its location at County roads 503 and 508 allow the department to respond to incidents in the western third of Highlands East.

He said Loomex Group estimated cost savings of $6.4 million in fleet and fire station replacements. That includes eliminating six fire vehicles.

All up, the overall plan contains 33 recommendations, including around recruitment and retention, occupational health and safety; service levels and performance standards.

Not convinced

Coun. Angela Lewis asked what made a building condition "critical." Gervais said it was based on functionality and operations. "Does it meet current Ontario Building Codes, Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, health and safety guidelines?"

Lewis responded, "I just can't see how you are going to have the same fire services when you are recommending closing two of the fire stations."

Mayor Dave Burton said, "we will have time to deal with that, Angela, believe me."

Coun. Cam McKenzie said there were a lot of references in the report of things the fire chief "should" do, which he said backed hiring a deputy chief.

Council received the report for information only.

Highlander news

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HE community rallies to address crime

By Lisa Gervais

A standing-room-only crowd filled the Robert McCausland Community Centre in Gooderham recently, as concerned citizens gathered to confront what they think is a growing wave of crime and theft in Highlands East.

Organizer, Todd Byers, of the newly-formed Highlands East Local Patrol (H.E.L.P.), said about 140 people attended, including speakers, MP Jamie Schmale, Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment commander Deb McClure and officer Roy Haddan, Highlands East deputy mayor, Cecil Ryall, and paralegal Krystle Pegg.

Byers said the meeting was, "born from rising frustration and concern among residents. H.E.L.P. was created to support community safety through increased vigilance and collaboration with law enforcement."

He added, "the meeting served as both a call to action and a platform for discussion on the impact of repeat offenders and what many view as lenient bail and sentencing policies."

Schmale talked about "Canada's revolving door justice system. Unfortunately, local police continue to deal with a small number of people who are alleged to commit multiple crimes, many times even

About 140 people attended a July 31 meeting in Gooderham about "a growing wave of crime and theft in Highlands East." *Submitted.*

when released on bail. This has left many residents feeling vulnerable and increasingly frustrated."

Schmale said Bill C75 and C5, "can be directly linked to the feeling of unease in our once quiet and peaceful cities, towns and hamlets. Bill C75 gives high priority to releasing repeat violent offenders, while C5 took away mandatory jail time for certain violent crimes.

"As a direct consequence of the government's soft-on-crime ideology, the number of murders has increased by 43 per cent while gang-related homicides have increased by 108 per cent since the Liberals formed government in 2015," he said.

Schmale said the Liberals need to "reverse course immediately, stop the madness and implement bail reform for repeat violent offenders."

During the meeting, one attendee commented, "there's a sense that our justice system is failing us. People committing multiple crimes are walking free, and our families and businesses are paying the price."

Byers said, "despite the sobering subject matter, the mood in the room was one of determination. Local leaders expressed support for stronger measures to protect the community and praised the formation of H.E.L.P. as a proactive step forward."

Byers thanked all who participated, especially the volunteers from The Gooderham Community Action Group, who brought the gathering together.

"This is about coming together to make sure Highlands East remains a safe place for families and businesses," he said.

The Highlander reached out to OPP for statistics to back up claims of a growing wave of crime and theft in Highlands East but they had not responded to our request as of press time Aug. 13.

If you would like to know more about H. E.L.P., or would like to contribute to the discussion, they have a Facebook Group.

Health unit issues rabies warning after spike in bat-man calls

Public health officials are warning people against handling wild bats trapped indoors after a "noticeable spike" in bat-related exposures across the region.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit (HKPR) and Peterborough Public Health (PPH) say it isn't safe for people to actively attempt to remove bats from their homes.

"Attempting to capture a bat indoors can increase your chances of being bitten or scratched, which raises the risk of being exposed to the rabies virus," the health unit said in an Aug. 8 media release.

Rabies is a viral disease that spreads through the saliva of animals and is known to infect bats throughout Ontario. In 2024, there were 91 incidents involving rabid bats across Ontario – including one in Kawartha Lakes, three in Peterborough, and two in Northumberland County.

HKPR spokesperson Ashley Beaulac said anyone concerned about being exposed to the virus should consult a health professional as soon as possible.

Initial symptoms in humans often mimic the flu, including fever, headache and pain or tingling at the wound site. Neurological symptoms include anxiety, confusion, hyperactivity, seizures, hallucinations and paralysis. If left untreated, rabies is "virtually 100 per cent fatal" according to the World Health Organization.

Anyone bitten or scratched is recommended to wash the affected area thoroughly with soap and water before following up for post-exposure treatment.

People can still be afflicted without a bite or scratch – if bat saliva makes its way into the bloodstream via a cut, or someone's mouth, eyes or nose they could be at risk.

Rabid bats also pose a risk to pets – vaccination is required by law for domestic cats and dogs, with the health unit saying it's the owner's responsibility to ensure coverage.

When finding a live bat, Beaulac advised confining it to a room, turning off the lights and opening a window to allow it to fly out on its own, or call a pest control professional for safe removal. Anyone finding a dead bat is asked to contact the health unit at 1-866-888-4577 ext. 5006. *(Mike Baker)*

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MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

• *Of Light and Life*, a new exhibit by world renowned artist Michael Dumas, is on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until September 13. The exhibit features over 70 original works, spanning the last 70 years. Copies of Michael's recently published book Algonquin Legacy - The Art of Michael Dumas are available for sale in the Gallery. For more information: https://calendar.mindenhills.ca/default/Detail/2025-07-22-1000-Of-Light-and-Life-A-Solo-Exhibition-by-Michael-Dum

• The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is pleased to partner with Pride in the Highlands for the 2nd annual Voice of Pride Art Exhibition, curated by local artist Scott Michael Walling. The exhibit will be on display from August 12 to 30. The Artist Opening Reception will be held at the on Friday, August 22 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

• The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village and Nature's Place are open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm! Daily drop-in programs are offered at 11 am. Coming up later this week: Thursday – Curious Minds (Bee Curious), Friday – Toddler Discovery Zone at 11 am and Ice-cream Making at 2 pm, Saturday – Hand Puppets. For a complete list of August programs: https://www.mindenhills.ca/en/News/media-release-25-82-august-drop-in-programs-and-activities-schedule.aspx

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

FALL SEASON PROGRAMS

Fall registered program registration is now open online and in person at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena. Programs include fitness classes like senior balance and buff, balance, burn as well as youth programing like creative minds and volleyball. Check out the full list of programs online at |www.mindenhills.ca/recreation.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently recruiting for the following vacancies:

• Casual Community Services Operator
• Seasonal Labourer
• Student Recreation Attendant
• Student Arena Attendant

Visit www.mindenhills.ca/careers for more information and how to apply

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

• August 14 – Regular Council Meeting
• August 28 -Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

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Radio to go ga-ga for HHHSF

By Mike Baker

The Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) is taking its fundraising efforts to the airwaves this week, with the community's annual health radiothon coming to 93.5 MooseFM Aug. 14 and 15.

Last year's event set a new record, raking in more than $600,000 for the Haliburton hospital's new CT scanner and mammography unit. Melanie Klodt Wong, the foundation's executive director, is again asking the public to put hands in pockets to help make this latest offering as big as it can possibly be.

Donations will go twice as far, she said, after a family of longtime cottagers came forward Aug. 1 offering to match all funds raised up to $100,000. The family's identity will remain a mystery, with the money coming from the WB Family Foundation.

"This is a common story of people who really love the Highlands, they've been cottaging here for generations… they understand the importance of having great healthcare available in the County, so are helping our efforts to raise money for life-saving equipment," Klodt Wong said.

Proceeds this year will go towards purchasing a new ECG machine and vital signs monitors.

"HHHS has a running list of needs, they have a process for determining what gets to the top of the list and then we do our best to provide them with the funds to replace things as they're required," Klodt Wong added. "Our ultimate goal is to make sure the hospital staff always has the best equipment."

Dr. Keith Hay, chief of staff at HHHS, said without fundraisers like radiothon the hospital would have no way of paying for new purchases. While the Ministry of Health covers operating costs, there's no assistance for upgrades.

"In an emergency, every second matters – and so does having the right equipment," Hay said. "Having new and upgraded tools ensures our team can respond swiftly and effectively when lives are on the line."

Radiothon launches Thursday at 6 a.m., running until 6 p.m. and picks back up for another 12-hour run on Friday at 6 a.m.

Klodt Wong said there's a full itinerary for the two-day fundraiser, with outgoing HHHS president and CEO Veronica Nelson making an appearance. There will also be interviews with ER doctors and incoming interim CEO and president, Jennifer Burns-West, as well as stories from people who have benefitted from recent radiothon purchases.

HHHSF executive director Melanie Klodt Wong is banking on another successful Radiothon Aug. 14-15. *File.*

New this year, the foundation has set up donation booths across the County – people can stop-in at the MooseFM station at 152 Highland St., at the Tim Horton's in Haliburton and Minden, Todd's Independent, Haliburton Foodland, Dollo's Foodland and Boshkung Social.

An Aug. 9 pig roast at Haliburton Highlands Brewing, which was raising money for the radiothon, was cancelled due to the fire ban, but the Kennisis Lake Marina and Smoke on the Water is welcoming donations at an Aug. 15 event, starting at 1 p.m.

"We're looking to be bigger – we're in more locations this year. I know we're not going to top the $600,000, but we want as much as we can possibly get. There's lots we're hoping to do to improve [things] at HHHS," Klodt Wong said, noting there will be chances for people to win prizes, including a pair of Toronto Blue Jays tickets, if they donate.

Donations can be made online at hhhs.ca/foundation.

Foundation lead says new lottery splits pot with other hospitals

Klodt Wong said HHHSF has the chance to win big after enrolling in a new inter-hospital sweepstakes in June.

The 'Split the Pot' lottery is advertised as an Ontario-based 50/50, where people purchase tickets for a chance to win a monthly cash prize. Funds are split equally between winners and participating health services – on the winner side, one person gets 60 per cent of the prize pot, two others share 20 per cent, and 10 more split the remaining 20 per cent.

When purchasing a ticket, which run $20 to $100 each on a tiered structure, people are asked whether they'd like their money to benefit a specific hospital foundation, Klodt Wong said. As of press time, 81 organizations participate in the draw provincewide.

"We wanted to be on the list, to be one of the charities that could receive funds. For people who don't designate a benefitting organization, we get a percentage of the money, but if people pick us, we get a much higher percentage," Klodt Wong said.

As of Aug. 5, she noted HHHSF had yet to receive any money, having joined in June. The lottery is separate from the local 50/50 HHHSF also hosts.

Split the Pot's parent company, Ascend Fundraising Solutions, is a Toronto-based company that runs online fundraising initiatives across Canada, the U.S. and Europe. Since launching in fall 2023, the company claims the lottery has awarded more than $8.3 million to 520 winners.

The August jackpot was $676,680 as of press time, with an estimated payout of $338,340.

Ascend did not reply to questions asking how much HHHSF has received to date, how much money it takes as the host organization, and how much has been distributed to all health partners, by press time.

MY Haliburton HIGHLANDS

What's Happening in your county...

Aug 14, 15 & 16 The Grown-Ups - Live Theater - Hosted at Haliburton Legion

Aug 15 & 22 Astronomy - Experience - Hosted at Haliburton Forest Wild Life Reserve

Aug 16 & 17 Power Boat Races - Event - Hosted on Head Lake, Haliburton

Aug 16 Food Festival - Event - Hosted at Abbey Gardens

Aug 16 Beach Party Boys - Live Entertainment - Hosted at Abbey Gardens

Aug 16 Ian Tamblyn - Live Entertainment - Hosted at Dominion Hote

Aug 16 Austin Carson Band - Live Entertainment - Hosted at Red Umbrella Inn

Aug 21 YUK YUK'S COMEDY - Live Comedy - Hosted at the Music Room, Haliburton

Aug 23 & 24 Highlands East Studio Tour - A Natural Work of Art

Aug 23 Gull River Gala 2025 - Event - Hosted at Minden Whitewater Preserve

Aug 24 Rainbow Street Fest - Event - Hosted by Pride in the Highlands @ Minden Village

To see the full listings of events, visit

myhaliburtonhighlands.com/whats-happening

Highlander news

A MESSAGE FROM

Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

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Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Ramsay leaves, for Petes sake

By Mike Baker

As Ryan Ramsay ramps up for another season of junior hockey, preparations will be much different this fall as the popular Haliburton County Huskies coach takes on a full-time role with the Ontario Hockey League's (OHL) Peterborough Petes.

It's a full circle moment for the bench boss, who returns to the organization that drafted him 13th overall in the 1999 OHL Priority Selection. While he will maintain his general manager duties with the Huskies, Ramsay said, for now, he's coached his last game with the local club – handing head coaching duties to longtime assistant Jordan Bailey.

The move was announced Aug. 8, with Ramsay starting with the Petes Aug. 26.

After spending two seasons advising the North Bay Battalion and regularly fielding calls for assistant or associate coaching roles in the OHL, Ramsay said the opportunity to return to the organization that helped launch his pro career was too good to turn down.

"There's a lot of history there… I went down to speak with them and being in the same rink [I played in] brought a lot of things back. Seeing my name in the alumni stall, it felt like the right thing – right place, right time," Ramsay said.

He didn't want to uproot his family from Haliburton County, so finding a gig close enough that he could commute was important.

Ramsay said he'll attend Huskies games this season when he can, though said his new job, focused on skills and player development, requires him to be at the rink in Peterborough a couple days per week for team practices. He'll also attend all Petes home fixtures in 2025/26.

"The hockey person within is always looking to graduate, looking for the next opportunity… I'm really excited. This is a team that means a lot to me, my old jersey from when I was drafted hangs in my kid's bedroom. It's a no-brainer for me," Ramsay said. "I've had some really good opportunities to move every year, but this is the one that makes sense and ticks all the boxes. It's something really close to my heart."

The 42-year-old has a long history with

Ryan Ramsay won't coach the Haliburton County Huskies this season, after taking a player development role with the Peterborough Petes. *Submitted.*

Pete's head coach Rob Wilson, who was his bench boss at Ritten/Renon during the 2012/13 Italian Hockey League Serie A season. They've stayed friends over the past 12 years.

Having worked predominantly with younger prospects during his stint with the Batallion, which he resigned from this summer, Ramsay said there's a lot of up-and-coming talent in Peterborough he's keen develop.

The team selected Kaden McGregor with the first overall pick in the 2025 OHL draft and also boasts well-regarded defenceman Carson Cameron and forward Colin Fitzgerald, who is representing Canada in the Hlinka Gretzky Cup.

"They've got a bunch of really good young hockey players. I'm looking forward to going in there and teaching them some skill stuff, but also about what it's like to be a professional hockey player, what it takes to make that step," he said. "It's not just Xs and Os, it's what you do off-ice and how you present yourself. Hockey is a mindset and how you deal with everything."

'Always a Husky'

Ramsay said his presence will continue to be felt throughout the Huskies organization – he's responsible for team building and will be available to assist Bailey as he gets to grips with his new responsibilities.

He doesn't foresee the switch impacting the team's ability to compete for a championship in 2025/26. Five players are returning from last year – goaltender Stephen Toltl, defenceman Kaiden Thatcher and forwards Chase Del Colombo, Daniel Vasic and Isaac Larmand.

Confirmed additions include 18-year-old centre Cristian Giancola, recruited from the Toronto Patriots, and rookies Connor Hollebek and Lewis Hergaarden. Thus far, the Huskies have filled two of eight older-age roster spots.

"We're going to be competitive – I've been telling people I'm still involved, running things and having final say on what goes on, as a GM does. But we have a really great team behind the bench.

"Jordan has been with me for years, [assistant coach] Owen [Flood] is going into his fifth year. They know what the organization is about, so I'm really comfortable with them leading the charge. The transition will be a lot easier than if we brought someone different in. I'm confident they'll bring us back to the playoffs and, hopefully, win a championship," Ramsay said.

MINDEN HILLS NEWS

HHHS rezoning in Minden

Council gave Haliburton Highlands Health Services the green light for a rezoning of its Minden health hub site.

Planner Amanda Dougherty told council "HHHS is seeking to rezone the lands to a uniform CF (community facility) zone in order to allow for easier master planning of the property."

She said the health care facilities were experiencing challenges with parking.

"Although HHHS would like to expand available parking on the property, as the R1 (residential type 1) zone does not permit parking lots, efforts have been stalled."

She added any expansion to parking will comply with applicable zoning provisions.

She said HHHS was also requesting to recognize existing deficient setbacks along the northern lot line, but no development or change to building footprint is proposed. She said HHHS was in the process of merging the three lots.

River Cone parties

Minden's River Cone will be celebrating its 30th anniversary Aug. 16.

They plan to host a celebration on their property this coming Saturday.

Meanwhile, Minden Hills council, at its last meeting, granted the business road closures for a portion of Orde Street to the River Cone for other events.

The Haliburton Scottish Country Dancers plans to use the space for demonstrations Monday nights from 7-8 p.m. with the next one on Aug. 18

On Aug. 23, from 2-4 p.m. Dance Happens Here Haliburton, as part of Pride festivities, is bringing a line dancing event.

The next Minden Hills council meeting is Aug. 14.

(Minden Hills news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

Highlander community

Big turnout for littlest fair

Rain showers Aug. 8 weren't enough to keep people away from the opening of the 42nd annual Wilberforce Agricultural Fair. With an expanded lineup, including opening ceremonies and activities at Keith Tallman Memorial Arena, the fair attracted hundreds from Haliburton County and beyond, with all eager for a taste of the biggest little fair around.

Top left: MP Jamie Schmale and Wilberforce Agricultural Fair ambassador, Tianna Hall, cut the ribbon Friday afternoon officially kicking off the weekend festivities. Top right: Twins Kyden and Kyson Robinson flash their best smiles while posing as red-nosed clowns. Middle left: Siblings Bianca, Gianna and Santino enjoy a fair rite of passage – cotton candy. Middle second: Sloane and Hawk Celikors check out the birds at the petting zoo. Middle third: Liam Brunt showed quick hands collecting balls during one of the many kids' games set up at the fair. Middle right: A crowd gathered around Colleen Childs of Turtle Guardians as she introduced people to Emy, a Blanding's turtle. Bottom left: Ag society volunteer Deborah Waterhouse stamps in four-year-old Marko Upson and grandma, Joyce Moulton. Bottom second: Pockets the Clown gives two-year-old Molly Bak a makeover. Bottom third: The Wilberforce Legion colour party marched officials in for Friday's opening ceremony. Bottom right: Wilberforce Agricultural Society member Ken Green kicked off the opening ceremony. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

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Editorial opinion

TheHighlander
Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Old cliché rings true

By Mike Baker

I have a new favourite cliché after literally getting back in the saddle last week.

On Friday afternoon, I enjoyed a leisurely bike ride around Haliburton village. It was my first time on two tires for over 15 years. It turns out the famous saying 'just like riding a bike' is well-known and used for a reason – it's pretty darn accurate.

When Pamela Marsales, a volunteer with the Caboose Community Bike Hub located in Head Lake Park, contacted me earlier this summer to see if I'd be interested in joining her for a ride-along tour of the downtown, a twinge of fear and embarrassment came over me. I was a teenager and weighed considerably less the last time I rode a bike.

I was certain that nothing good would come of it – I may even have told my wife it was 50/50 whether I'd be eating dinner at home or in a hospital bed that evening. Still, I've always encouraged people to push their boundaries and get out of their comfort zone, so I agreed.

We started out at Head Lake Park – I stopped by the caboose for a catch-up on a six-month pilot Marsales is leading, promoting cycling as a healthy and accessible activity for most.

Not having a bike, I was able to rent one free of charge courtesy of the Haliburton Bike Share. Launched by Haliburton Rotary in 2023, the program allows people to virtually sign-out one of six bikes for up to three hours. You need a smart phone and a credit card to register, but that's it. Within about 30 seconds, I was on my way.

Now, this is where it gets a little awkward. I should apologize to one young family who, I can only assume, must have thought I looked like Bambi on ice.

It's important, to me, that you all know I did not fall – though there were more than a few wobbles and unintended jolts as I struggled to maintain my balance.

Funny though, once I stopped thinking about it and worrying what all those who could see me must think, my hands grew steadier and the path straighter. Muscle memory is a wonderful thing.

We headed past the playground, behind the library and across Maple Avenue to a dirt path that runs parallel with Drag River. After turning around, we continued down the Head Lake boardwalk, over to the Haliburton Rail Trail and, finally, past Hal High and across to Halbiem Crescent. I was surprised by how quickly we arrived at Glebe Park.

By then, I'd gotten my confidence back. I didn't have a death grip on the handlebars, I was happy changing gear mid-ride and even propelled myself vertically, coming off the seat, to pedal uphill.

Yes, laugh as you may, this was all a pretty big deal for me. I had convinced myself, for some reason, that my bike riding days were long gone. Not anymore.

I'm going shopping for a bike of my own this weekend – I had forgotten what it was like riding against the wind, feeling the breeze against my face. It was a hot one last Friday, but I barely worked up a sweat with all the cool air coming in from the water.

This is exactly the kind of thing Marsales is trying to inspire through the bike hub. Funded by a $30,000 Ontario Trillium Foundation grant, the pilot runs until the end of September. Until then, people can stop by the caboose Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., sign-up for guided rides on Thursdays and Sundays, and participate in bike-themed activity on Saturdays. This past weekend was the first annual Kids' Bike Fest – there's lots of stuff for youth to do, too.

Since April, Marsales estimates about 200 people have visited or participated in rides and workshops.

She hopes to keep the movement going – the next round of OTF seed funding opens in October and Marsales has a long-term plan for the bike hub. She hopes to secure funds to keep programming going for another two or three years.

It's a great resource – one that is open and available to everyone. Maybe it's time to get back in the saddle yourself.

HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

A country girl at heart

By Susan Tromanhauser

Growing up in Highland Grove, Marsha Sweet enjoyed what was once a typical Haliburton Highlands childhood. The 53-year-old watched her father go to work in the lumber industry at Martin Mills and then, later, as a truck driver delivering lumber. Her mother worked with pre-cottage era tourists at Elephant Lake Lodge.

This idyllic childhood is the reason Sweet calls herself "a country girl" at heart.

After attending high school in Bancroft, and trying a few local jobs, a good paying factory job in Kingston was offered. She grabbed the chance to move to the big city. She lived there for a few years, never quite getting accustomed to looking out the window and seeing neighbours a few feet away. When her father passed away, her mother was concerned about maintaining the family home on her own. Sweet moved back to Highland Grove to assist – with no regrets.

She enjoys the quiet lifestyle of maintaining her garden, lots of grass to cut, and wonderful neighbours – but not too close. A cancer diagnosis interrupted her quiet lifestyle. Sweet credits the support of the Canadian Cancer Society providing transportation to her treatments in Kingston for her survival. She speaks highly of her treatment team, always able to get calls returned right away. But that was 15 years ago, and she fears the health system is not treating her friend with a similar diagnosis quite as well.

Fully recovered from her illness, Sweet continued her pastime of playing baseball, at one point playing four times a week. She eventually put her mitt away and now enjoys watching her Toronto Blue Jays. She is also one of those many die hard Maple Leaf fans who knows "next year is the year."

At her job at Todd's Independent in Haliburton, she sees firsthand the changes in the community. She used to know everyone but there "are so many new faces now." But she enjoys her job. There are "great people there and I never regret going to work."

Sweet acknowledges some changes are not for the best. Growing up, the family never locked their doors. Not only does she ensure her doors and windows are locked now, but she also locks the car in the driveway. She blames increased drug use in the area and expresses concern about what she calls "catch and release" of the few bad characters.

While things in Highland Grove may be different from when she was a young girl,

Marsha Sweet. *Submitted.*

she has no desire to leave. She recently spent a month hosting relatives originally from the area who yearn to return, even for a short time, to the Highlands.

While she envisions a vacation out east one day, she vows to never permanently leave the Highlands again. As Sweet looks fondly out her window at the expanse of grass, she knows she is in the right place - living in Highland Grove. "It's my home."

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Safety and respect

Dear editor,

Yesterday (Aug. 9), I visited Diamond Lake public beach for what I hoped would be a peaceful long-distance swim.

As someone who enjoys open-water swimming, I always take safety seriously. I wore my bright orange buoy attached to my waist and stayed close to the shoreline to avoid interfering with other lake users.

Unfortunately, my experience was disrupted by a jet ski rider who aggressively told me to "f***off," claiming it was dangerous to swim in the lake due to the presence of watercraft.

This encounter left me shaken and disappointed. Diamond Lake has long been a cherished spot for swimmers, kayakers, and families looking to enjoy nature. While I understand that larger lakes often accommodate high-speed motorboats and jet skis, Diamond Lake is relatively small. The increasing presence of fast-moving watercraft makes it difficult for swimmers to feel safe, even when taking precautions.

I don't recall seeing this level of motorized traffic in previous years. The lake seems to be shifting from a shared recreational space to one dominated by speed and noise. It raises an important question: Are swimmers no longer welcome at Diamond Lake?

I believe all lake users - whether on jet skis, boats, paddleboards, or simply swimming - deserve mutual respect and consideration. The person operating a motorized vehicle has a responsibility to ensure the safety of others. Swimmers should not be made to feel endangered or verbally harassed for engaging in an environmentally-friendly activity.

I urge local authorities and community members to consider implementing clearer guidelines for motorized watercraft on smaller lakes like Diamond Lake. Designated zones, speed limits, and awareness campaigns could go a long way in preserving the lake as a safe and inclusive space for everyone.

To those who enjoy the thrill of jet skis and motorboats: please be mindful of others. A lake should be a place where all can coexist - where swimmers don't fear for their lives, and where respect is as much a part of the experience as the water itself.

Simona Kolarova
Highland Grove

Councillors say no

Dear editor,

No doubt there are many of us living in Minden who are very disappointed with Minden council members who refused to support a new cell tower being built in a gravel pit on Bobcaygeon Road. While a few residents living near the proposed site were opposed to having an 'eyesore', what about the impact to the rest of our community who depend upon reliable cellular services? With our aging population, there is ever-increasing need to reach family and emergency services and information services on the internet.

Likely this decision will hurt all of us for many years to come. Perhaps council needs to take a broader and more balanced view of the needs of our entire community?

M. Bell
Minden

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Catherine Graham introduces us to our newest reader.

Clearing plants

Dear editor,

Unlike a recent correspondent (letters, Aug. 7), I wish to thank the County roads department for keeping county roadsides clear of plants.

This improves driver visibility of pedestrians, runners and cyclists sharing the road and helps keep them safe.

Unchecked roadside plant growth also forces cyclists into the middle of the lane, which benefits neither cyclists nor drivers.

I'd also like to thank Haliburton drivers. My experience is most of them are very courteous towards cyclists, for which, as an enthusiastic cyclist, I say thank you.

Dave Ings
Minden Hills

Condition of Furnace Falls Park

Dear editor,

I have passed by Furnace Falls many times on my travels, and on Aug. 8, I finally decided to stop and visit.

While the scenery was undeniably beautiful, I was appalled and disappointed by the state of the park. The garbage bins were overflowing, the outhouses were in extremely poor condition, and there was no toilet paper. As an Ontarian, I felt ashamed to see such a public space in this condition.

My wife and I had just returned from a two-week trip to the Gaspé, covering over 4,000 km and stopping at dozens of parks and rest areas along the way. Most were excellent, some were acceptable but only one was truly filthy. Sadly, Furnace Falls Park was the low point of an otherwise wonderful trip.

I sincerely hope this was an isolated incident, but I urge the township to look into the matter and ensure this valued location is maintained to a standard that reflects the pride we should have in our public spaces.

David Coward
Collingwood

Grateful with questions

Dear editor,

Why are most/all of our firefighters volunteers? My buddy is one of those volunteers and so is our local mechanic and excavating/gravel man.

So, it started with the ice storm, next my cousin found herself at a roadside accident and last week, I found myself safely watching 'the show' from my dock. Yes, I ignorantly referred to a fire burning out of control across my lake as entertainment. Jeremy, Don and Roger, please forgive me.

These volunteers are seriously well trained, adaptable and constantly on call. It's time we considered staffing options for the group of first responders who secure, provide emergency First Aid and put out fires.

I'm so darn grateful to these folks

Carolyn Humphreys-Viducis
Head Lake, City of Kawartha Lakes

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Highlander business

Getting Kosy for 90 years

Kosy Korner celebrated its 90th birthday Aug. 12; serving up pork and beans on toast for 25 cents, and free coffee and kombucha. CanoeFM was on-site, there was a photo board of memories, and face painting for the kids. Co-owner Brendon Clarke said, "it's a pretty crazy milestone" while co-owner Christine Clarke added, "so much history … so cool to be part of that." They were collecting donations for Places for People. Kosy Korner has been a Haliburton staple since 1935, starting in a logging camp and eventually moving into town. It has drawn thousands over the decades – famed actor and comedian Mike Myers; TV presenters Colin McAllister and Justin Ryan, and Haliburton hockey legend Matt Duchene – not to mention local regulars.

Above: Owners Christine and Brendon Clarke and staff celebrate 90 years.
Photo by Lisa Gervais

The Molou light is lit in downtown Haliburton. *Photo by David Partridge*

Lighting up the Molou

By Lisa Gervais

It's been 15 years since the Molou sign has been lit up in downtown Haliburton.

Building owner, Joel Finkelstein, recently threw the switch after getting Gerald Sharp, of Sharp Electric, to oversee the electrical, and source some help with the neon.

The last showing at the Molou was in August 2010 and it's been lights out ever since.

Finkelstein is a former summer camper, and cottager. Like many, he grew up with the Molou in summer, a theatre that got its name from then-owners Molly and Lou Consky.

"It had a lot of memories for me – I grew up there at camp, and then we cottaged there for many years. Haliburton was always sort of our playground."

Finkelstein said he felt if was important to light the lights once again.

"I always considered the Molou the iconic symbol of Haliburton." He added the movie theatre dominated the main street and was something unique to the village.

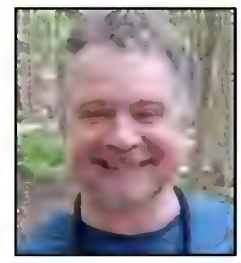
"I thought it would be nice to have the sign light up again and just make it seem like there was more life in the downtown area."

He said it's been well received with a recent Minden-Haliburton Facebook group post getting hundreds of likes and comments.

"There was the same sentiment I had; people grew up there, went to camp, knew the town, knew the Molou, remembered Molly and Lou. Everyone seems to be very appreciative."

ADVERTORIAL

Transforming your landscape bit by bit



By Simon Payn

I've been driving around the county visiting gardens and landscapes I've installed. (If you want to see pictures, you can sign up for my newsletter at groundedgardens.ca.)

While natural gardens are much lower maintenance than most gardens and even lawns, they still need a bit of attention, especially as they are establishing.

All this got me thinking: what if there was a way to combine traditional landscape maintenance with a shift towards more ecological principles?

Many cottage owners invest in keeping their landscapes looking good, but what if it you could do more than that? Could your property support more local wildlife, help struggling pollinator populations, and contribute to ecosystem health while solving those persistent problem areas that require constant attention?

Using nature to fix problems

For many people, their current maintenance regime works well: patios are kept weed-free, lawns are cut, gardens are weeded. But some areas likely need constant attention despite professional care, like that slope that keeps eroding or that shady corner where nothing seems to take. Perhaps these problem areas are opportunities to use native plants that are well suited to the area? They could thrive and solve your problem at the same time.

Or perhaps you've been native-plant curious but didn't know where to start. You don't want to transform your whole landscape - you want to keep your lawn and your cultivated plants - but you're thinking of naturalizing your shoreline. Could you keep your traditional maintenance regime and add a bit of nature at the same time?

Maintenance plus transformation

This is where a gradual transition strategy could work. Keep maintaining your property as you always have, but explore naturalizing some parts of it.

You could think of dividing your landscape into zones. Zone 1 could be your familiar areas - the plantings around your cottage or your lawn. These could be maintained as usual.

Zone 2 could be a problem area - perhaps too many geese on the lawn or an area that is wet in spring and dry in summer. These areas could be converted into self-sustaining native landscapes.

Zone 3 would be your ecological development area. You could transform that sunny spot into a pollinator paradise or create a bird-pleasing buffer of understory shrubs where the forest meets your property.

How Grounded could help

All this requires time as your landscape develops, and a degree of expertise in choosing the plants and helping them settle in. So I was thinking: maybe Grounded could help with this?

If you're looking for someone to maintain your property and are interested in transitioning part of your property to a natural landscape, please contact me.

Grounded would take care of the maintenance - and work on transformation projects at the same time. We'd be able to keep everything under control and would be there frequently to make sure your new native plants establish. You wouldn't have to worry about it.

I have room for about ten clients on this program and will only work with those who are committed to doing some naturalization work. (If you want pure maintenance, then there are some excellent companies, such as Greenscapes Haliburton, who can help you.)

My mission with Grounded is to transform our relationship with nature - and that transformation starts right outside your front door. If I can make it easy for you to take the first steps while continuing to keep your property maintained, then it seems like a win for me, a win for you, and a win for nature, too.

Grounded's tagline is "Gardening for Life." Maybe it should be "Maintaining for Life" also?

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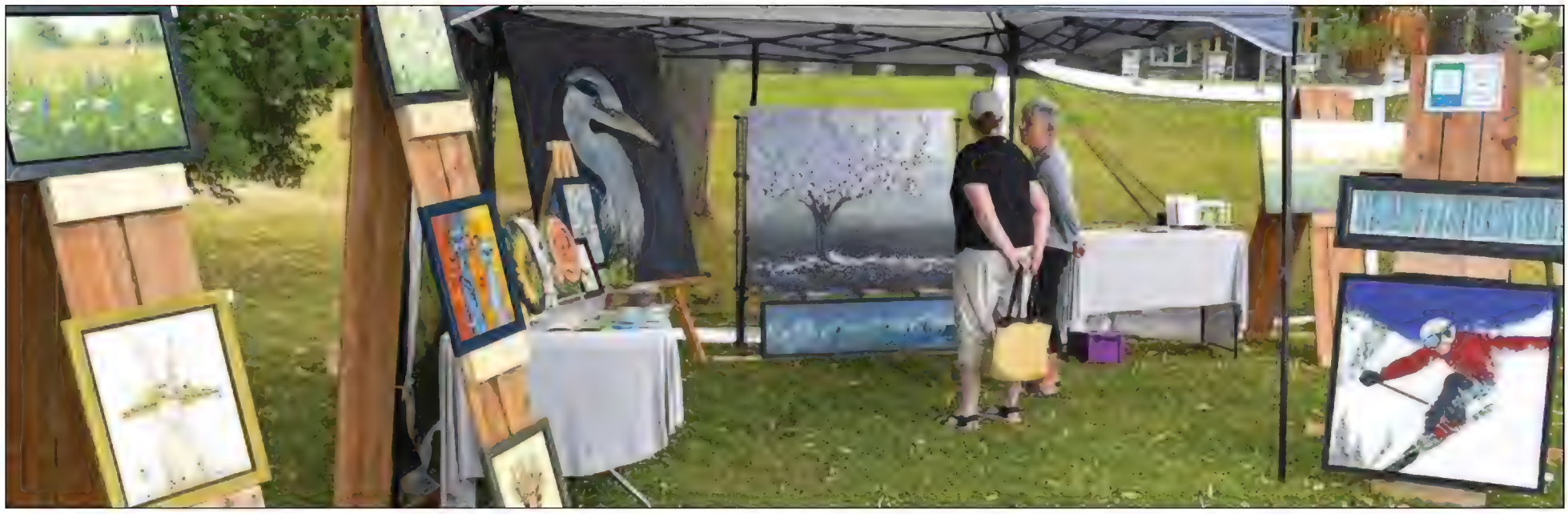
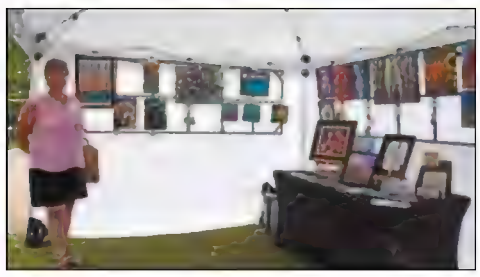
Highlander arts





Art takes over

The shores of Lake Kashagawigamog were transformed into a one-stop shop for arts enthusiasts last weekend. The fifth annual Kash Art on the Water attracted 20 artists and makers, who showcased their homemade and handcrafted wares for interested buyers. With nine locations to choose from, including lake landmarks like the Bonnie View Inn, people were welcome to arrive by road or water. *(Mike Baker)*

Top: Acrylic artist Liette van Niekerk discusses her work process with Victoria Durie. Bottom left: Heather Brownridge, of Heather's Kiln Works, shows off her display at the Bonnie View Inn. Bottom second: Nicki Brazier Hagarty and Louise Outram Ewing showcased their works from Off Loom Bead Weaving. Bottom third: Anne Cutting brought a selection of her artwork for people to enjoy. Bottom right: Intuitive abstract artist Jacqueline Constantini shows her art to Gary and Victoria Durie. *Photos by Steve Sherwood.*

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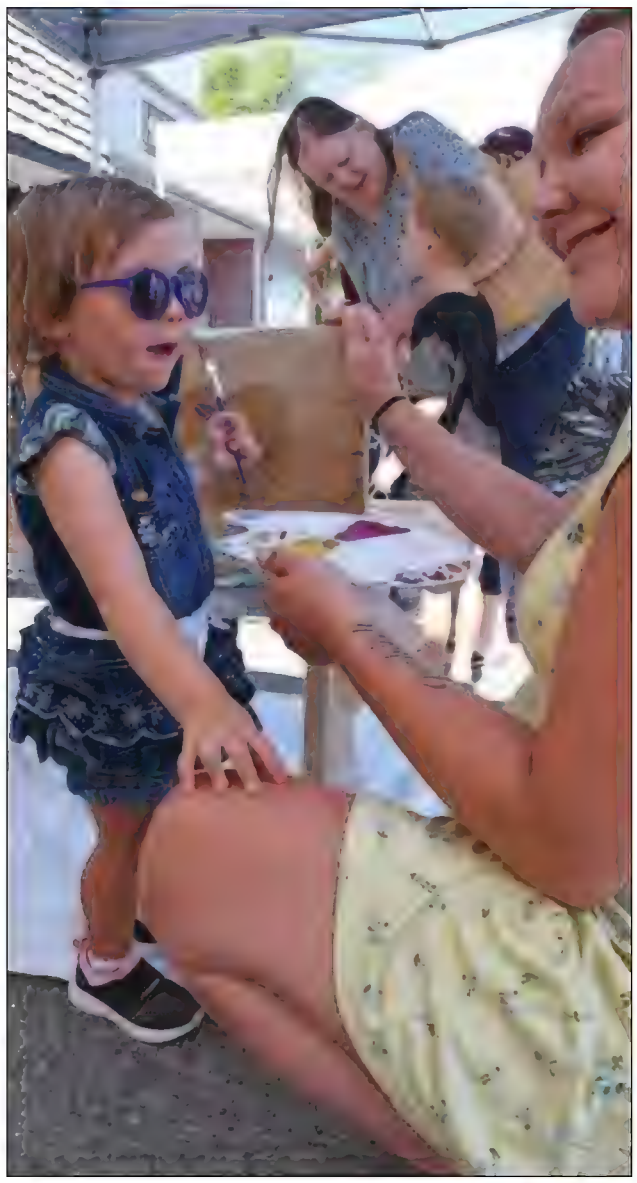
Highlander events



The place to be

Main Street in Minden was party central Aug. 9 as the Rotary Club of Minden hosted its annual Rotaryfest along Bobcaygeon Road. Between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., there was live music provided by Drew Allen, Jeff Moulton, Bill Candy, Albert Saxby and Recycled Teenagers, two kids' storytime events, fire extrication demonstrations from the Minden Hills Fire Department, games, artisan vendors and much more. *(Mike Baker)*

Left: Delilah Jones gets creative at the painting bench with mom's help. Top middle: Dan Gilpin tries his hand at wiffle golf. Bottom middle: Travis, Magnus and Lennox partake in some wooden car racing. Top right: Haliburton County Master Gardener Ruthie Cummings shows a younger resident how to water a plant. Bottom right: Pride in the Highlands' Allan Guinan, Aunty Plum (Shawn Smandych), Bob Fisher and Edna Guinan doing their best to keep cool. *Photos by Steve Sherwood.*

OUT ON THE STREET
Line Dancing
Saturday, August 23 | 2:00 – 4:00 PM at the River Cone in Minden
Dance instruction by Jacqui Bell!
Join us for an afternoon of fun, music, and movement!
In celebration of Pride Week.
All ages and skill levels are welcome!
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Award of $400 per artwork selected.
Theme: Nature and the Outdoors.
Submission deadline: Friday, August 22, 2025
Details and link to submission form
www.dysartetal.ca/pumpitup
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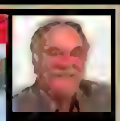

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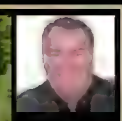

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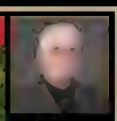
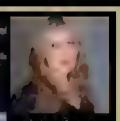


Tom Ecclestone* (705) 754-5101

Highway 35 $499,000
- 2 Bed/2 Bath, 1,250 Sqft, 0.76 Acres
- Screened-In Porch, 1.5 Car Garage
- New Workshop, Covered Decks



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Melanie Maxwell-Hevesi** (705) 854-1000
Andrea Wilson** (705) 457-6694

Trooper Lake $550,000
- 3 Beds / 1 Bath, Fully Insulated Cottage
- 170ft of South-Facing Frtg, Well-Treed
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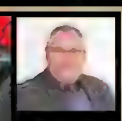
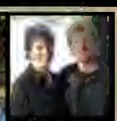


Andrew Hodgson** (705) 854-0130

Kashagawigamog Lake $625,000
- 3 bedrooms & 2.5 bath townhouse
- 2,765 SF with attached 2 car-garage
- Silver Beach community on 5-lake chain



Susanne James* & Andy Mosher** (705) 457-2128 ext. 133

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- 120' Shoreline, South Exp, Good Privacy
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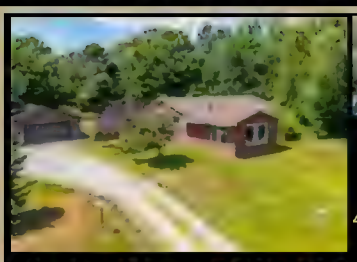
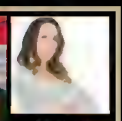


Kathy Martin* (705) 457-7592

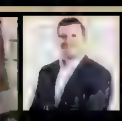
Minden Home $695,000
- 3 Beds/2 Bath, 2,100+ SqFt, 3.49 Acres
- Massive Garage/Workshop, Open Cpt
- Private Backyard Pond, 3 Mins to Minden

NEW PRICE



Ashley McKeigue* (705) 854-1833

Minden Home $699,999
- 3 Beds / 2 Baths, Propane FA w/ HRV
- Lg, Partially Fenced Lot, 7yr Tarion Warranty
- Municipal Water & Sewer, Mins to Minden



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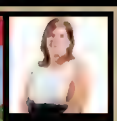

Karen Nimigon** (705) 457-6505

Charming Home $437,000
- 3 Beds / 1 Bath, 1,350 SqFt, 12+ Acres!
- Two Tranquil Ponds, Walking & 4x4 Trails
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Kirsten Rae* (705) 854-1454

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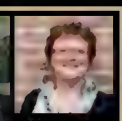
- Dtch'd 3-Bay Grg, Radiant Heated Floors



Darlene Reil* (705) 854-2055

Irondale River $439,000
- Well kept 3 bedroom home with garage
- Workshop, "she" shed, walk to amenities
- Storage sheds sitting on banks of Irondale Riv.

Christine Sharp* (416) 566-1592

Contau Lake $1,495,000
- 3 Beds/2 Baths, 3,300+ SqFt, Post & Beam
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- Dtch'd 26'x40' Garage, Oversized Dock

Greg Stamp* (705) 455-2231

Wigamog Road $699,000
- 4-bed, 2-bath home, separate 2-bed apt
- Attached Double Car Garage, 1.33 Acres
- Fully Finished W/O Bsmt w/ Rec Room

NEW PRICE

Melanie Vigrass* (705) 754-5494

Redner Road $635,000
- Beautiful Open Concept Home
- 2 Bdrm+Den, 2 Stunning Renovated Baths
- Main Lvl Laundry, Full Finished Lower Lvl

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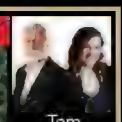

Tom Wilkinson** (705) 457-6839
Lindsay Wilkinson* (705) 854-1454

Gull River $924,900
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- Man Cave, She Shed, Kids Shack
- Boat to 3 lakes, Too Many Features To List

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Highlander sports

Olympic staffer to lead womens mountain bike clinic in Glebe Park

By Lisa Gervais

Dr. Adam Wade – a chiropractor for Canada Skateboard's Fay de Fazio Ebert at the 2024 Paris Olympics – is leading an introduction to women's mountain bike clinic at Glebe Park Aug. 16.

Wade has a family place on Haliburton Lake and is a member of the Haliburton Mountain Bike Club, which is hosting the clinic this Saturday.

Club president Jason Bradley said Wade volunteered to offer the workshop to area women.

He added it is open to anyone, members or non-members.

"They're going to learn introductory mountain bike techniques, skills, safety, and riding practices," Bradley said.

He added, "you can never have been on a mountain bike before and you can show up Saturday."

The clinic starts at 9 a.m. and people are encouraged to reserve a spot by emailing haliburtonmtb@gmail.com .

It's been a big season for the club, which hosted its first-ever annual general meeting in the spring. It now has a constitution, and elected Bradley as president along with three directors: Owen Flood, Luke Lester and Graham Borgdorff. The club has about 70 members.

The Glebe Park Committee looks after the park on behalf of Dysart et al. The mountain bike club, cross-country ski club, and snowmobile association all have a hand in maintaining trails.

So far, the mountain bike club has had four volunteer sessions for trail work.

Bradley said, "part of the club's mandate for this year was to increase accessibility; so, beginners and kids and youth can access the trail network."

The trails are marked one through 10. One to four are now for beginners, and marked green. They also have intermediate trails, marked blue, and expert, marked black.

"We've brought in a bunch of fill and just made them more accessible to beginners. That was our whole idea, so people could have a 30-minute loop to build their confidence and then progress."

He said they've also built a kids loop behind the Haliburton Highlands Museum.

New signage was expected this week for the mountain bike trails sections.

Bradley said they've also lucked out with some corporate sponsors, so "good community involvement." He added that Sir Sam's Ski/Bike had given club members a discounted rate.

Bradley said the other key thing is group rides every Wednesday night at 6 p.m., for both a beginner's easy ride and an intermediate ride. "We'd love to have more people show up. Anyone can show up on the Wednesday and people help you, and your ride will be according to your skill level. You will be accommodated.

Jason Bradley is the president of the Haliburton Mountain Bike Club. He is pictured with wife, Kassie, and children, Jennie, 5, and baby Bodie. *Submitted.*

"You're in the woods. Membership is $25, which is super affordable. You don't have to have a membership to ride in Glebe, but you would be contributing to trail maintenance and insurance, which is expensive.

"It's a fantastic resource we have within Glebe Park. It's beautiful and we're lucky to have it and there's a club that wants to embrace it and have fun together."

For more information, go to haliburtonmtb.ca

Moving Away Auction Sale

Saturday August 16, 2025 | 10 am sharp

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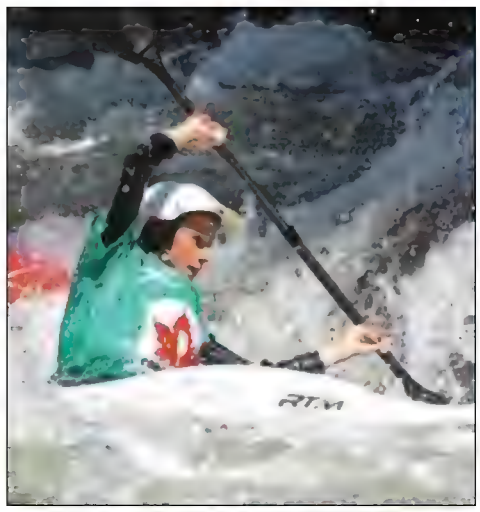
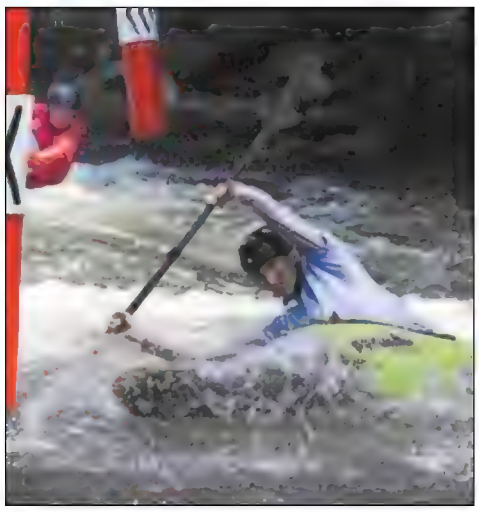
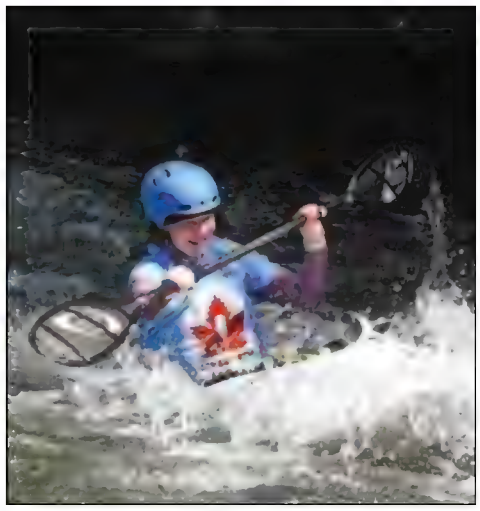
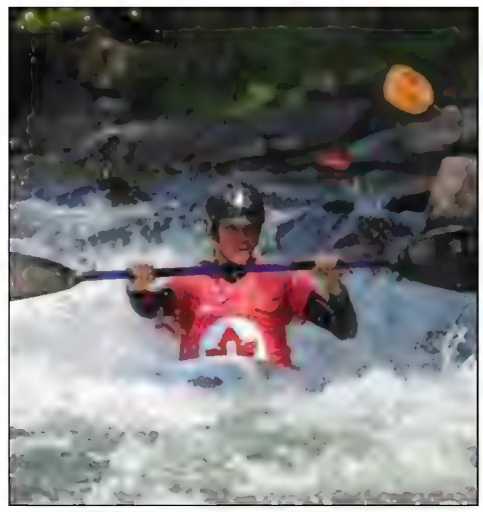
Highlander sports





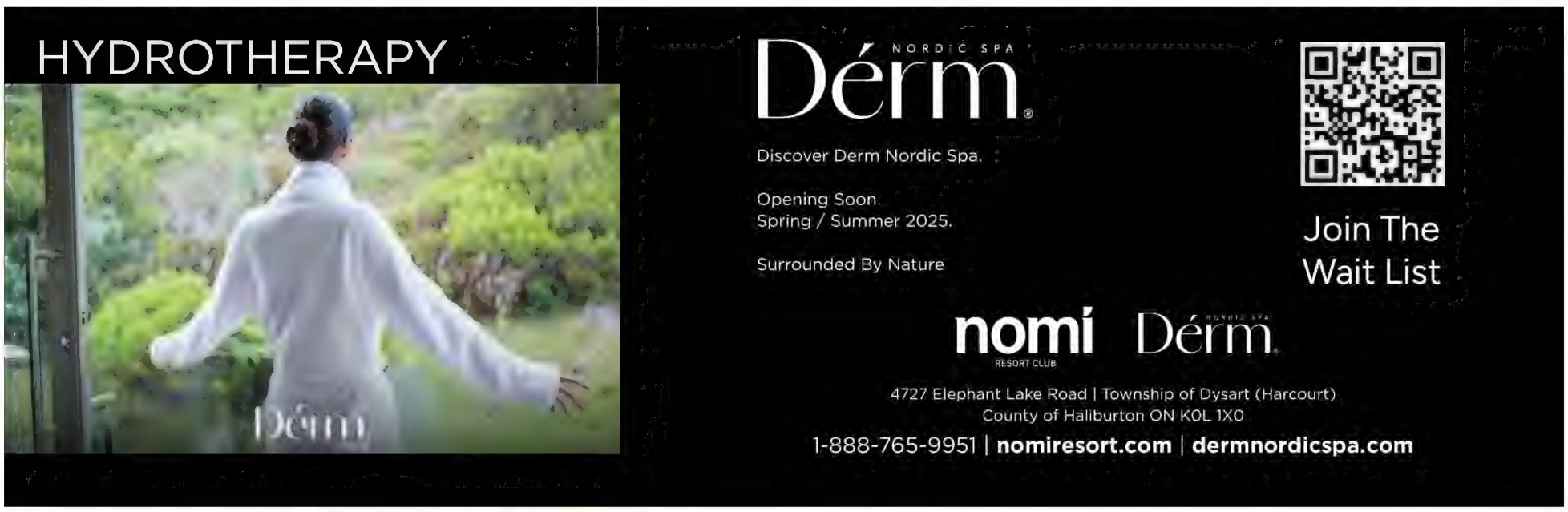




Wet and wild on the water

The Minden Whitewater Preserve was swimming with world-class talent Aug. 8-10 as the International Canoe Federation (ICF) brought its canoe slalom world ranking trials to Haliburton County. Results are used to allocate points to racers, which helps determine placement at official world championship and world cup events. *(Mike Baker)*

Top: Isaac Zimmerman, in red, makes his way through a run with Lachlan Faraday closely following. Bottom left: Joel McKean maintains control travelling through the rough water. Bottom second: Tyler Gevaert pulls off a tight turn. Bottom third: Cierra Cartwright had a good day on the women's circuit. Bottom right: Sabastian Peace in the moment. *Photos by Steve Sherwood.*



Home of Haliburton Grassroots

MVPS!

Aleena Muneer - Girls 7-9 - Kiwi Team

Beau Gilmour - Boys 10-13 - Haliburton Crew United

Delainie & McKenna Cook - Girls 7-9 - Purple Team

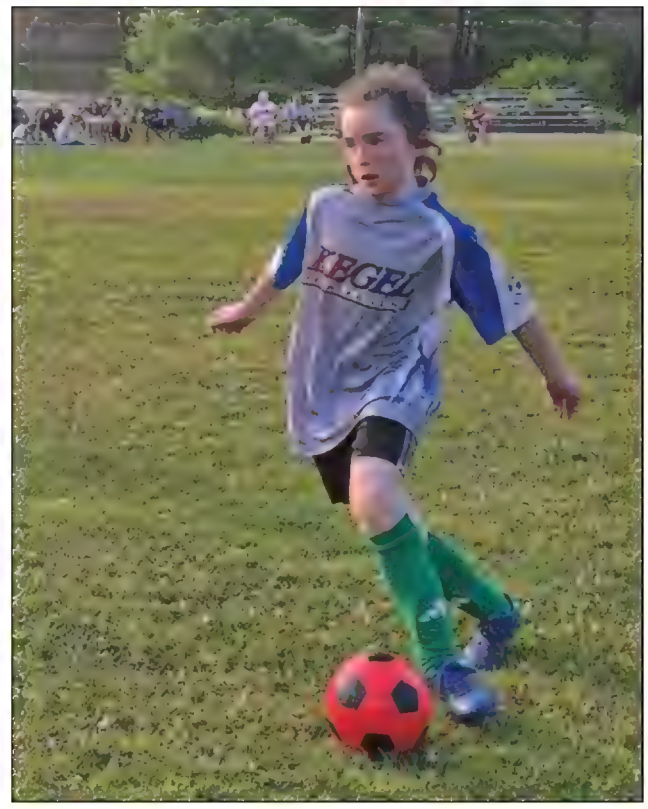
Emma Dugay - Girls 10-11 - Navy Team

Huxley Brown & Cash Ouellette - Boys 7-9 - Purple Team

Lily Smith & Teia Wilson - Girls 12-13 - Green Team

Penelope Irvine & Kenna Ryalen - Girls 10-11 - White Team

Thomas Ritchie & Rhys Foster - Boys 7-9 - White Team



Volunteer coaches putting in the time

It was yet another warm and dry week, the kind where the grass beneath our soccer cleats felt crispy and brittle with every step, as a few hundred eager kids poured onto the pitch ready to play.

The coaches have begun rolling out new and more challenging drills designed to push these young athletes even further in their skills, stamina, and teamwork.

With each passing game, the play is becoming more spread out, featuring stronger and more accurate passes, as well as a noticeable increase in communication and encouragement across the field.

Our appreciation for these incredible coaches knows no bounds, as they continue to devote their valuable time, knowledge, and energy into building and developing these teams into something truly special. *(Submitted)*

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Monterey M20 (2024)
Mercruiser 4.5, 250hp, Bimini top, Tonneau + Bow Cover, Full Seadek, Simrad GPS

Save $9500

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Stingray 172 DC (2005)
Yamaha F90, Double Bubble windscreens, Ski Bar, Bimini Top, Tonneau + Bow Cover

Save $6000

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+ Tax

Bennington 20SL (2025)
Yamaha F70, 10' Bimini Top Mooring Cover, Table, Stereo Swim Ladder

Save $7500

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$49,995
+ Tax

Alumacraft Competitor 165
Yamaha VF90, Trailer, Stand up Fishing Top, Helix 7 Graph, Trolling Motor

Save $9395

~~$69,390~~
$59,995
+ Tax

Bennington 21 Stern Fish (2025)
Yamaha F90, Stern Fishing Seats Livewell Fishfinder, 10' Bimini top, Mooring Cover, Table, Stereo

Save $9290

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What's on

Powerboat races return to Head Lake this coming weekend. *File.*

Powerboat races to roar for Haliburton hospital

By Lisa Gervais

Racers from Ontario, and the U.S., are expected to attend this weekend's Canadian Boating Federation-sanctioned races in Haliburton.

The Toronto Outboard Racing Club is back on Head Lake Aug. 15-17 with Hydro, T-boats and Runabouts on an oval circuit race competing for points. They are expected to reach speeds from 30 mph up to 85 mph.

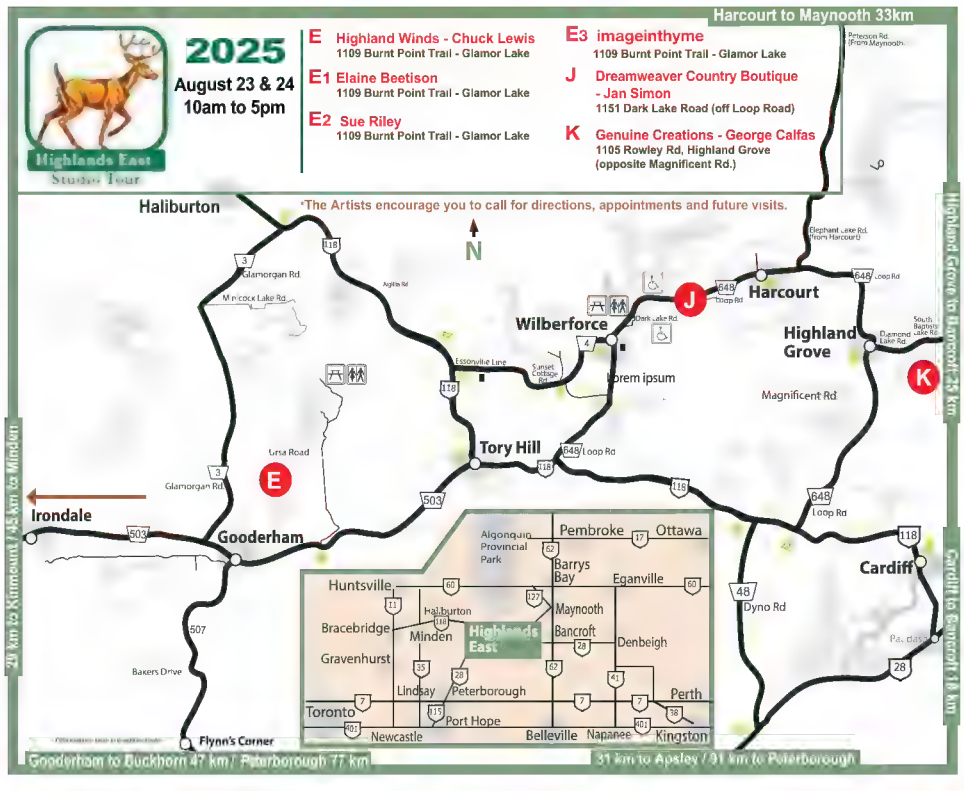
Event organizer, Barb Hammond, said local racers, Wesley Hammond (no. 17) and Andrea Hammond (no. 38), along with Tammy Everitt (no. 34) will be competing. She added two new local young racers, Tristan Coroghly (no. 11) and brother Aidan Coroghly (no. 112) will take part.

Hammond said 2025 marks the 10th year of the event in the Highlands.

Haliburton is the fourth stage in the five-race series. It began in Tweed June 7-8, switched to Gravenhurst June 21-22 and was in Erinsville July 19-20. The next stage is Redwood, NY Sept. 13-14.

This year's Haliburton Generators Power Boat Races begin Friday with set-up and spectators welcome into the pit area to view and meet the racers. Following opening ceremonies Saturday, racing is expected to start about 10 a.m. and run until 5 p.m. On Sunday, the times are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Hammond said it remains a free event, raising money for the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation. See more at torc.ca



READ THE HIGHLANDER. ANYWHERE.

What's on

Abbey Gardens to host first food festival

By Lisa Gervais

Rather than hosting a garlic festival, Abbey Gardens is expanding its culinary repertoire with an inaugural food festival Aug. 16.

Executive director Angela Kruger said the new event is sponsored in part by the County of Haliburton tourism department.

"We are excited to host our inaugural food festival at Abbey Gardens, and we want this to grow into a signature tourism experience in the County of Haliburton," Kruger said.

She said this Saturday's event will run from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"The festival will be serving up food favourites with woodfired pizza from Into the Blue, BBQ from Till Death BBQ, fresh baked bread, ice cream from Kawartha Dairy, and unique vendor treats," Kruger said.

She added Boshkung Brewery will be offering craft beer on-site; and the Food Hub will be selling coffee and baked goods, along with café favourites.

Angelica Ingram, manager of tourism for the County of Haliburton, said "the launch of this new food festival presents an exciting opportunity to highlight the incredible local producers, farmers, and culinary talent that call the Haliburton Highlands home.

"By celebrating our homegrown flavours and farm-to-table experiences, we're not only attracting visitors with a passion for food, but also building stronger ties between tourism and agriculture.

People can visit the horses at Abbey Gardens during the food festival. *File.*

"This festival is a meaningful step forward in growing agri-tourism in our region and showcasing the vibrant food culture that sets the Highlands apart," Ingram said.

Kruger said people can enjoy family fun with Pockets the Clown, try their hand at Abbey Gardens' disc golf tryout area, and visit on-site heritage animals and play areas.

She said they could also shop from artisan vendors such as Malty & Hoppy Delicacy, Algonquin Craft Co., and Dainty Permanent Jewelry.

Meanwhile, a Beach Party Boys concert is happening too. Doors open at 4 p.m., in the big white tent, and the show starts at 4:30 p.m.

Entry into the food festival is by donation, with all proceeds going towards supporting Abbey Gardens' environmental education and restoration projects.

Tickets to the Beach Party Boys concert are $45. Go to abbeygardens.ca for more information and to purchase tickets to the concert.

Abbey Gardens is at 1012 Garden Gate Dr., Haliburton. It is a charitable organization in the Haliburton Highlands created with a mission to transform a spent gravel pit into a green space dedicated to developing economic, ecological, educational, and recreational growth. They are FEASTON certified for carrying Ontario products in their Food Hub. It is a social enterprise that produces, promotes, and sells sustainable, local food to engage the community and support Abbey Gardens.

What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed.
Tuesdays: Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Fun darts at 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, Remembrance Hall. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. with a 7 p.m. start time, Remembrance Hall. There will be a $1,000 jackpot Aug. 6, Sept. 3, and Oct. 1. Snack bar available from 5:30 p.m. – French fries and hot dogs available while supplies last.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month.
Fridays: meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom. Beginning July 4, board games for seniors from 10 a.m. to noon.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
Clubroom hours: Monday 3-9 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday closed.

Upcoming events: Drum circle Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 16, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, with a 1 p.m. start time.

Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for rental information call Cheryl Waller at 905- 447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com/facility-rentals Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129…everyone is welcome!

The Legion's mandate is to help veterans, assist with their mental and physical health and social wellbeing, provide a feeling of togetherness and combat isolation. All are welcome to attend our events.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday to Thursday with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Mondays: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Tuesdays: closed
Wednesdays: open 2 to 10 p.m.
Thursdays: open 2 to 6 p.m.
Fridays: open 2 to 11 p.m.
Saturdays: open 2 to 9 p.m.
Sundays: closed, special events only

Darts at 7 p.m. Aug. 18 and 25. Cost is $5 per player. Afternoon sessions are at 2 p.m. Aug. 20 and 27, cost is $4 per person.

We have suspended our cornhole league.

EVENTS

Aug. 14, It's soon time to tee-off: Help a Village Effort (HAVE) Minden is hosting its fifth-annual Ron Reid HAVE charity golf tournament Aug. 14 at Gull River Golf Club in Minden. They've helped build more than 700 wells since 1982. Go to helpavillageeffort.org

Aug. 14, 7:30 p.m. Ctrl-ART-Del presents 'The Grown Ups' at the Haliburton Legion. Written by Simon Henriques and Skylar Fox, the play focuses on a group of camp counsellors as they try to mold the leaders of tomorrow. For audiences 12 and above. Tickets are $25 for adults, $10 for youth, available at tickets.crtlartdel.ca. There are other shows Aug. 15 and 16

Aug. 15, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Stop by the Minden Hills branch of the Haliburton County Public Library for family storytime with Jan Coates, an award-winning children's author. She will be reading her picture book *Sky Pig*, a heartwarming and humorous story perfect for young children. No registration required.

Aug. 15, 6 p.m. Anniversary celebration corn roast at the Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost at 2314 Loop Rd. Join the community for corn, hot dogs, cake and ice cream. There will be a quilt raffle draw at 7:45 p.m.

Aug. 16, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The Fort Irwin Residents' Association is hosting a pancake breakfast at 5821 Haliburton Lake Rd., with food courtesy of Features Brasserie, Sysco Food Services and Willow Organic. Cost is $8 for adults and $5 for children.

Aug. 16, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Toronto Outboard Racing Club is bringing its powerboat races back to Head Lake in Haliburton. Come out to watch this free water-based event all weekend long, with races also taking place Aug. 17.

Aug. 16, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visit Abbey Gardens food and artisan event to experience County-based food favourites including woodfired pizza, Kawartha Dairy ice cream, local craft beer and more. All are welcome.

Aug. 17, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Arts & Sweaters North is happening at Indigodragonfly Studio, located at 1946 Kennisis Lake Rd. in Haliburton. Join us for a free BBQ, cake, yarn pinata, vendors, friendship and community. Bring your craft project and a chair to spend the day. RSVPs appreciated at indigodragonfly.eventcalendarapp.com/arts-and-sweaters-north.

Aug. 18, Pride in the Highlands flag raising and official ceremonies, kicking off Pride Week in Haliburton County. Taking place at the Minden Hills township offices at 9 a.m. and at A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton at 4 p.m.

Aug. 19, 10 a.m. Free guided walking tours in the Haliburton Sculpture Forest every Tuesday in July and August. Meet at the kiosk in the Fleming College - Haliburton School of Art + Design parking lot, at 297 College Dr. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Tours are held rain or shine and can take up to two hours. Tours are free but donations are greatly appreciated.

Aug. 20, 7 p.m. Join HaliUkes and Haliburton Highlands Brewing for the final ukulele jam of the summer at 15543 Hwy. 35. All are welcome

Have an event coming up? Send details to mike@thehighlander.ca

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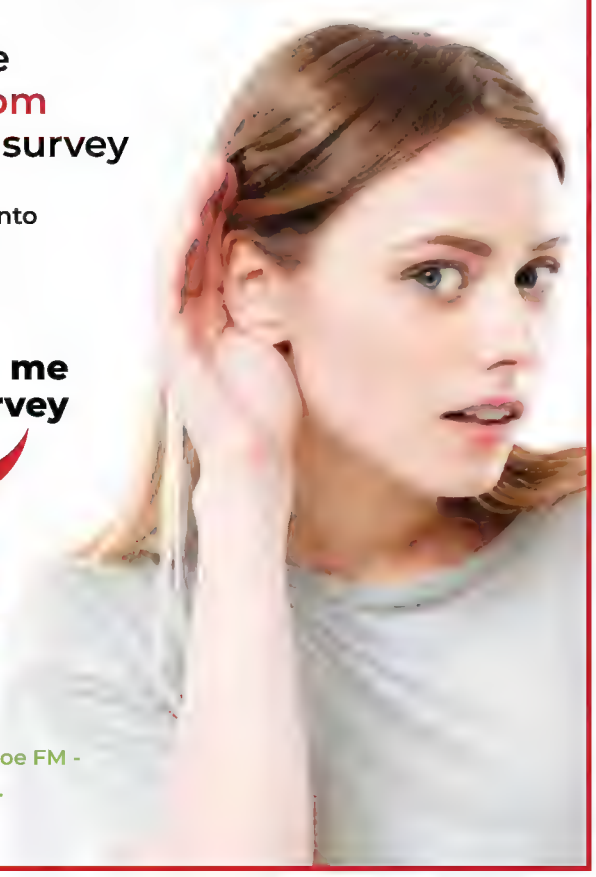

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

AUG 14 - AUG 20 this week

Thursday Aug 14

Boshkung Brewing Live Music, 6 p.m.to 9 p.m.

Friday Aug 15

Smoke on the Water, Kennisis Lake, Van Hillert, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Haliburton Brewing, Rich Howard Trio, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Saturday Aug 16

Boshkung Brewing, Live Music 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Smoke on the Water, Kennisis Lake, J Boom, 12 p.m.-3 p.m

Boshkung Smokehouse, Jeremy Woyce, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

Haliburton Brewing, Chris Smith, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Sunday Aug 17

Boshkung Brewing, Live Music 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Haliburton Brewing, Trina West, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Tuesday Aug 19

Haliburton Brewing Canoe FM Radio Bingo & dinner, 6 pm

Music in the Park, feat. Albert Saxby & Trina West, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Aug 20

The Dockside Bonnie View Inn, Rockin Bobs, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Boshkung Brewing, Open 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. Wing Wednesday!

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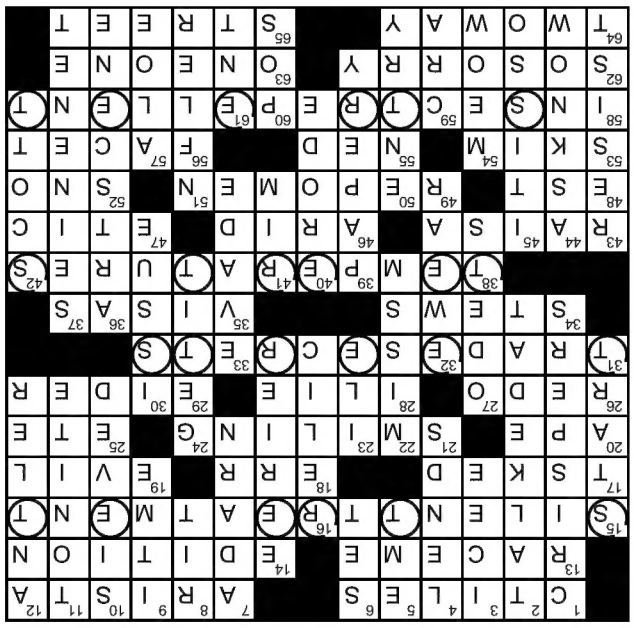
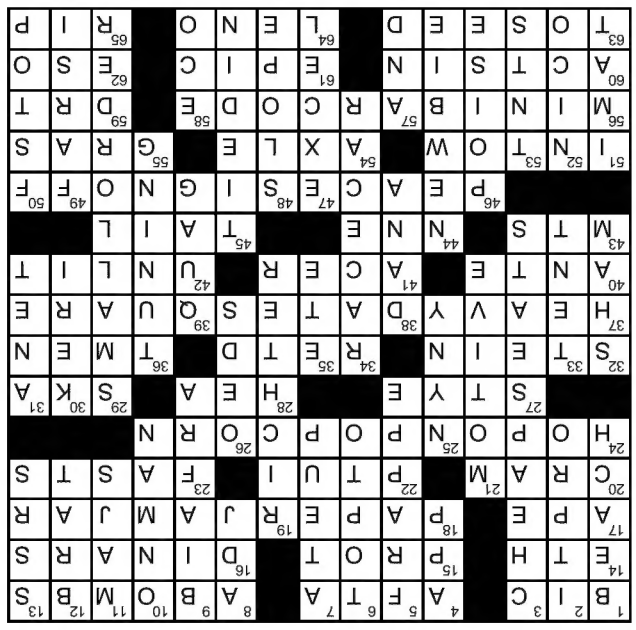
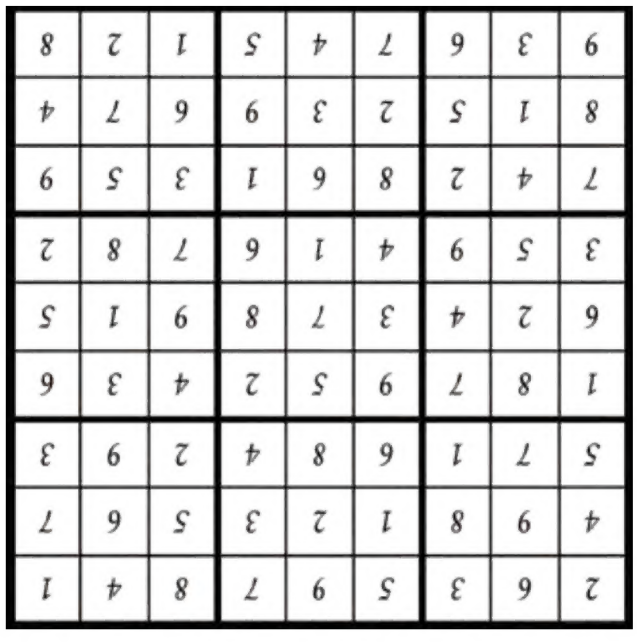


THIS WEEK'S SOLUTIONS





OBITUARY

In Loving Memory of

Marilyn Jane Billings
(nee Barr)

Passed away peacefully at Extendicare, Haliburton on Sunday, August 10, 2025 with her loving family by her side, in her 80th year.

Loving mother of the late Richard "Rick" Billings (2014)(Shelley Austen), Margaret "Marg" (David) Graham, Robert "Rob" Billings (Suzanne Partridge), Maureen White, Angela Thompson (Avery Gurr). Loving GG of Matt (Laurie), Sarah (Shawn), Nicole (Brent), Lauren, Emma, Lucas, Devin (Kathryn), Kayla, Nia and Great GG of Ethan, Cole, Alena, Grayson, Cora, Liam, Aiden, Gemma, Garrison, Levi, Janna, Jethro, Nova, Evelynn, Jace and Everly. Dear sister of Marina (the late Richard), Leonard (Sharon), the late Herbert (Heather). Lovingly remembered by her family and friends.

A Private Family Visitation and Funeral Service to celebrate Marilyn's Life will be held at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427 Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 on Monday, August 18, 2025.

Interment at the Glamorgan Cemetery, Gooderham.

Memorial Donations to the Diabetes Canada or to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family.

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OBITUARY

In Loving Memory of

Elizabeth Louise Carrell
(nee Bird)

Passed away peacefully at the Haliburton Hospital on Friday, August 8, 2025, at the age of 92.

Beloved wife of the late William "Bill" Carrell (2013). Dear mother of Pamela and her husband Jose Miguel Peleato, James and his wife Sheila, Suzanne and her husband Kevin Mayall. Loving grandmother of Sebastian (Susan), Nicolás (Aidan), Jean (Catherine), Andrew (Daniella), Jeffrey (Katie), Jessica (Bernie), William and great grandmother of Stella, Eliza, Quinn, Sophia, Hunter and Thomas. Dear sister of Judy, Brian, and predeceased by Angela, Joyce and Nora. Fondly remembered by her nieces, nephews, family and friends. Founding member of the Minden Horticultural Society, active member of the Minden Bible Church and the Agnes Jamieson Gallery.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, K0M 2K0 on Friday, August 29, 2025 from 11:00 am until the time of the Service to Celebrate Elizabeth's Life at 1:00 pm. Interment at Minden Cemetery.

Memorial Donations to the Minden Bible Church or Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation – Community Care (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family.

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In Loving Memory of

Marjorie Gertrude MacLeod
(nee Hancock)

It is with great sadness the passing of Marjorie Gertrude MacLeod (Hancock) on August 7, 2025.

Wife of the late John Saxun (2020) and predeceased by her former husband Frank Ward MacLeod (2019). Loving mother of Suzanne MacLeod, Patricia (Brian) Thurston and predeceased brother her infant Son Francis. Predeceased by her parents Agnes Murial (nee Massales) and Seneca Thomas Henry (Harry) Hancock. Loving sister of Jackie Carter, Jim (Doris) Hancock and Predeceased Mary (Perry) Stuart and Vivian (Allan) Archer. Loving grandmother of Matthew (Alana), Erick (Haley), Kristina (Vince) Cellini and Andrew Thurston and great grandmother of Ethan, Walter, Ivy and Ruby. She will be greatly missed by all her nieces and nephews. Marjorie will be remembered for her strength, independence and was a financially wonderful person. She was an entrepreneur business woman and Registered Nurse.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Friday, August 15, 2025 from 12:00 o'clock noon until the time of the Service to Celebrate Marjorie's Life at 1:00 pm. Interment at Minden Cemetery. Reception to follow at the Monk-Cray Family Centre at the Funeral Home.

As expression of sympathy donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Society or to the Hospital for Sick Children Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

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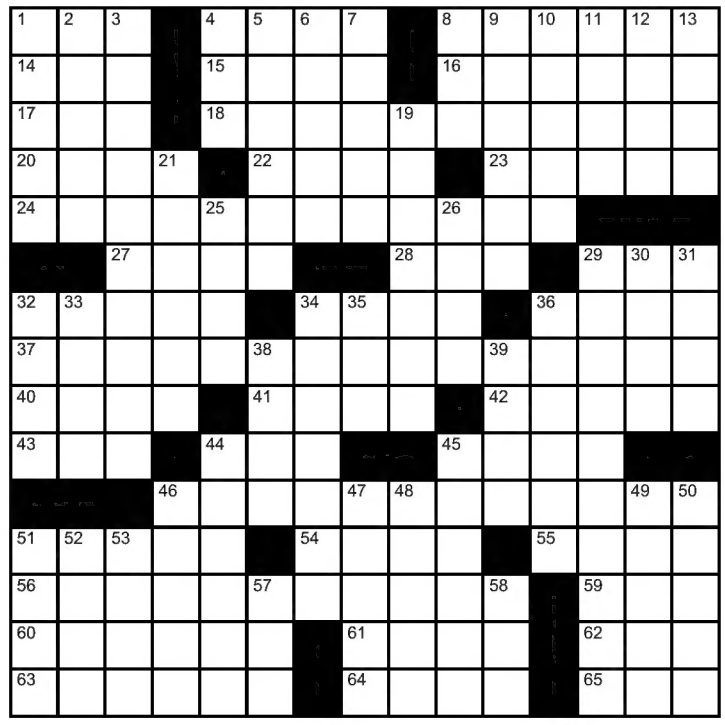

Across

1 Pen name?
4 Post-shaving brand
8 Some nukes
14 Biblical verb ending, often
15 Not Cath., say
16 Kuwait cash
17 Parrot, oddly
18 Preserves container made by an origamist?
20 Stuff (in)
22 Spitting sound
23 Observes Ramadan
24 Book by Dr. Seuss and Orville Redenbacher?
27 Blinker problem?
28 "Isn't ___ bit like you ..." (Beatles lyric)
29 Jamaican jazz genre
32 Oktoberfest vessel
34 No longer working, in a way: Abbr.
36 U.S treasury agts.
37 Palm fruit dessert with an overly dense crust?
40 Chips in a pot
41 Taiwanese laptop brand
42 Sober?
43 Range elements: Abbr.
44 Opp. of SSW
45 Comet feature
46 Pacifist's letter ender?
51 Tagging behind
54 Wheels' connector
55 Foie ___ (rich pâté)
56 Scannable lines on a teeny-weeny product?
59 Gynecologist played by Richard Gere
60 Is part of the play
61 Updated "Neato!"
62 Tijuana "that"
63 How neglected plants go
64 "You Bet Your Life" host Jay
65 Make distressed, as jeans

Down

1 Sandcastle spot
2 Computer fix-it whiz
3 Nosebleed section
4 iPhone buy
5 Whipped cold coffee
6 From ___ bottom
7 Didn't just pick at
8 Red, white or blue, e.g.: Abbr.
9 Nigerian state, until 1970
10 Alexander Pope's "An Essay ___"
11 Captains' superiors: Abbr.
12 German sausage, for short
13 Ukraine and Uzbekistan, once: Abbr.
19 Quake measurer Charles
21 The why, to Sherlock
25 The Big Apple initials
26 Londoner's lexicons: Abbr.
29 Kiddie meal, say
30 Aveeno lotion rival
31 Without ___ (daringly)
32 Pretend pillow case
33 Outdoor wedding rental
34 Pit stop wheels
35 Juin 21-septembre 22 span
36 Making less flat, in a way
38 One-time SNL regular Carvey
39 Bog, briefly
44 One learning the ropes
45 Drew a connection with
46 Graceful manner
47 Show superior skill
48 Aren't on the level?
49 Language of Teheran
50 Camera lens setting
51 "___ a loss for words"
52 Female in The Velvet Underground
53 They're dynamite
57 'n, in full
58 Prefix with friendly or freak

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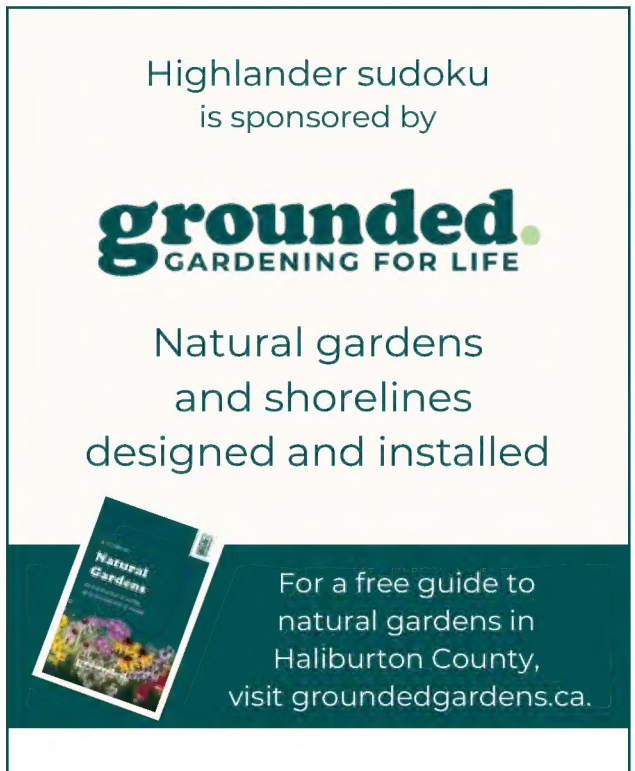
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Growler Lake

Imagine owning 3500 sq ft of living space on 45.53 acres of with 520 ft of water frontage. This isn't just a cottage; it's the setting for the life you want to live. Host memorable gatherings, create family traditions, and discover the peace that comes with owning a piece of paradise.

4 | 5 | W | 45.53 acres | MLS X12236651

Kennisis Lake — $1,999,999 — 3 | 5 — MLS X12110017

Kushog Lake — $599,900 — 2 | 4 — MLS X12227417

Holmes Road — $417,000 — 1 | 2 — MLS X12294295

Kawartha Lakes — $1,579,000 — 3 | 3 — MLS X12182250

Gelert Road — $390,000 — 1 | 2 — MLS X12257121

Eagle Lake Area — $999,900 — 2 | 3 — MLS X12029422

Canning Lake — $924,900 — 2 | 3 — MLS X12146750

Kennisis Lake — $949,500 — 2 | 3 — MLS X12273143

Long Lake — $899,990 — 2 | 6 — MLS X12176356

Kennisis Lake — $875,000 — 1 | 2 — MLS X12176356

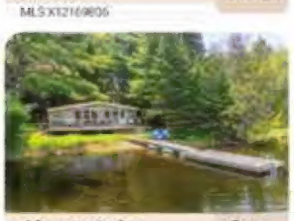
Kennisis Lake — $874,900 — 2 | 3 — MLS X12169806

Horseshoe Lake — $849,997 — 3 | 3 — MLS X12189937

Beech Lake — $814,900 — 2 | 2 — MLS X12250064

Trooper Lake — $699,000 — 2 | 3 — MLS X12236448

Kennisis River — $725,000 — 1 | 3 — MLS X12137708



Glamor Lake — $525,000 — 1 | 3 — MLS X12315938

Koshlong Lake — $689,000 — 1 | 2 — MLS X12283171

Eagle Lake Area — $659,900 — 1 | 2 — MLS X12095585

Salerno Lake — $699,000 — 1 | 3 — MLS X12250284

Koshlong Lake Road — $625,000 — 2 | 3 — MLS X12269884

Vacant Land

Endless Possibilities

Deeded Access
Wenona Lake Road
$95,000
MLS X11963943
0.42 acres

Highlands East
Outram Road
$119,999
MLS X12280117
2.11 acres

Fort Irwin
Haliburton Lake Road
$199,900
MLS X12198778
14.53 acres

Just Listed
County Road 121
$65,000
MLS X12287507
1.77 acres

Just Sold
Dark Lake
$275,000
MLS X12285079
1.77 acres

Adeline Trail
Redstone Lake
$445,000.00
MLS 12282389
18.4 acres

SCAN TO SEE THE LISTINGS

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